

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-06
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
SAL-01 /128 W

-----091130Z 084587 /14

R 090919Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6004

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3315

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: USSR WARNS GOJ ON NORTHERN TERRITORIES

REF: A. TOKYO 2739, B. TOKYO 3069

SUMMARY: IN STIFF REJOINDER TO JAPANESE PROTEST AGAINST
INCLUSION OF NORTHERN TERRITORIES IN SOVIET EXCLUSIVE FISHING
ZONE (EFZ), RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD GOJ MARCH 8 THAT NO TERRI-
TORIAL DISPUTE EXISTED BETWEEN USSR AND JAPAN. IF JAPANESE
PERSISTED IN LINKING NORTHERN TERRITORIES DISPUTE TO NEGOTIATIONS
ON ACCESS TO SOVIET EFZ, ACCESS WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO
ARRANGE. JAPANESE REJECTED SOVIET ASSERTION THAT NORTHERN
TERRITORIES ARE CLOSED ISSUE, SAYING THAT LINKAGE OF QUESTIONS
WAS SOVIET NOTION. FONOFF REMAINS HOPEFUL THAT WHEN FISHERIES
TALKS RESUME IN MOSCOW MARCH 15, SOVIET SIDE WILL STICK TO FISH.
END SUMMARY.

1. USSR AMBASSADOR POLYANSKY IN MEETING WITH VICE FOREIGN

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MINISTER SATO MARCH 8 REJECTED GOJ PROTEST OF INCLUSION OF
NORTHERN TERRITORIES WITHIN USSR EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE (EFZ).
MEDIA ACCOUNT, CONFIRMED TO US BY BOTH JAPANESE AND SOVIET
OFFICIALS, SAID POLYANSKY TOLD SATO THAT IF GOJ PERSISTED IN
ASSERTING THAT ISLANDS ARE IN DISPUTE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO
REACH AGREEMENT ALLOWING CONTINUED ACCESS JAPANESE FISHERMEN TO
SOVIET EFZ. RUSSIANS APPARENTLY REFERRED TO JAPANESE PROTEST ON

EVE OF SUZUKI-ISHKOV TALKS REPORTED REF A.

2. MEDIA SAID THAT SATO REFUSED TO ACCEPT POLYANSKY'S CLAIM THAT "THERE IS NO SO-CALLED TERRITORY PROBLEM LEFT UNSETTLED BETWEEN JAPAN AND SOVIET UNION," REMINDING HIM THAT USSR AGREED AT 1973 JAPAN-SOVIET SUMMIT THAT NORTHERN TERRITORIES PROBLEM YET UNSETTLED. MOFA FIRST EAST EUROPE DEPDIVDIR AOKI TOLD EMBOFF THAT SATO ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS NOT JAPANESE, BUT SOVIETS, WHO INSISTED ON LINKING NORTHERN TERRITORIES AND FISHERIES ISSUES.

3. FOREIGN OFFICE, ACCORDING TO AOKI, NOW PONDERING IF IT MUST MAKE FURTHER FORMAL REJOINDER BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS ON PROVISIONAL FISHING AGREEMENT BEGIN IN MOSCOW MARCH 15. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA, MEANWHILE, TOLD PRESS LATE ON MARCH 8 THAT (A) NORTHERN TERRITORY PROBLEM REMAINS UNSETTLED; (B) PROBLEM OF EFZ SEPARATE FROM NORTHERN TERRITORY PROBLEM; AND (C) GOJ CANNOT AGREE TO SOVIET REPRESENTATION.

4. COMMENT: FONOFF SEEMS TO CONSIDER POLYANSKY'S TOUGH TALK PART OF SOFTENING-UP PROCESS PRIOR TO FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS, AND TO EXPECT THAT, AS IN SUZUKI-ISHKOV MEETINGS (REF B), USSR NEGOTIATORS WILL STICK TO FISH DURING MOSCOW TALKS. EMBASSY MOSCOW MAY WISH TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH FONOFF EXPERT AOKI, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY JAPANESE NEGOTIATING TEAM. JAPANESE EXPECT TO LEAVE FOR MOSCOW MARCH 13, AND TO LODGE AT SOVIETSKAYA HOTEL. SHOESMITH

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